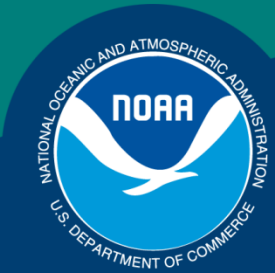


*Science, Service, Stewardship*

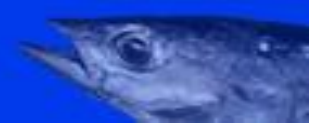


# 2014 SCRS Research Activities and U.S. Participation

**2014 Spring Species Working Groups Meeting  
of the Advisory Committee to the U.S. Section to ICCAT  
April 1<sup>st</sup>–2<sup>nd</sup>, 2014    Rockville, MD**

**NOAA  
FISHERIES  
SERVICE**





## SCRS Officers

Chairman, SCRS

Sub-Committee on Ecosystems

Josu Santiago (EU)

Shannon Calay (USA) - convener/bycatch

Alex Hanke (Canada) - Ecosystem Based Fisheries  
Management

Sub-Committee on Statistics

Methods Working Group

Tropical Tunas Coordinator

*Bigeye tuna*

*Yellowfin tuna*

*Skipjack*

Atlantic Albacore:

Mediterranean Albacore

Bluefin tuna: *Eastern Atlantic*  
*Western Atlantic*

Billfishes

Swordfish Coordinator:

*North Atl Swordfish*

*South Atl Swordfish*

*Mediterranean Swordfish*

Sharks

Small tunas

Coordination of tagging info: East  
West

Gerald Scott

Michael Schirripa (USA)

Joao Gil Pereira (EU)

David Die (USA)

Craig Brown (USA)

Daniel Gaertner (EU)

Haritz Arrizabalaga (EU)

José M<sup>a</sup> Ortiz de Urbina (EU)

Sylvain Bonhommeau (EU)

Clay Porch (USA)

Freddy Arocha (Venezuela)

Miguel Neves dos Santos (EU)

Miguel Neves dos Santos (EU)

Thierry Frédou (Brazil)

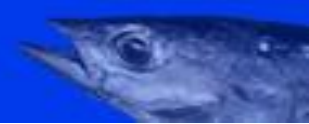
George Tserpes (EU)

Enric Cortés (USA)

Nouredine Abid (Morocco)

Enrique Rodriguez-Marin (EU)

Eric Prince (USA)



<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>Last/Next assessment</u>
YFT, Yellowfin Tuna, <i>Thunnus albacares</i>	2011 / 2016?
BET, Bigeye Tuna, <i>Thunnus obesus</i>	2010 / 2015?
SKJ, Skipjack Tuna, <i>Katsuwonus pelamis</i>	2008 / 2014
ALB, Albacore, <i>Thunnus alalunga</i>	2013/ 2017? (N. Atl)
	2011/ 2017? (S. Atl)
	2011/ 2015? (Med.)
BFT, Atl. Bluefin Tuna, <i>Thunnus thynnus t.</i>	2010/ 2014 (E&W)  2015 (E&W Atl.)
SWO, Swordfish Atl. , <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	2013/ 2017?
SWO-Med., <i>Xiphias gladius</i>	2010/ 2014
SAI, Sailfish, <i>Istiophorus albicans</i>	2009/ 2015?
BUM, Blue Marlin, <i>Makaira nigricans</i>	2011 / 2016?
WHM, White Marlin, <i>Tetrapturus albidus</i>	2012 / 2017?
	BSH, <i>Prionace glauca</i> 2008 / 2015
Small Tunas (various)	SMA, <i>Isurus oxyrinchus</i> 2012 / 2019?
Pelagic sharks	POR, <i>Lamna nasus</i> 2009 / 2017?

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## Sharks species group intersessional meeting

*March 10-14, 2014, Piriapolis, Uruguay*

- Determine the feasibility of conducting stock assessments for shark species under ICCAT jurisdiction in the future
  - Building on initial work conducted during the development of the 2013 Shark Research and Data Collection Program, the meeting will mainly focused on identifying and assembling the different types of data that can be used for conducting stock assessments of shark stocks under ICCAT in the future. These included:
    - Catch, effort, size, and tagging data housed at the Secretariat
    - Indices of relative abundance (CPUE time series) presented by the different CPCs during the existence of the Shark Species Group and identification of additional series that can be developed, by species



## Sharks species group intersessional meeting

*March 10-14, 2014, Piriapolis, Uruguay*

- Additional length composition data not available at the Secretariat but that can be obtained from the different CPCs (e.g., from observer programs)
- Biological data necessary for stock assessment (age and growth, reproduction, natural mortality, size conversion equations)
- Identification of data gaps and uncertainties, and exploration of methodologies used to fill data gaps

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# WG-Stock Assessment Methods

*Dublin, Ireland : April 7-11, 2014*

- Provide guidance on uncertainty characterization
- Revise methodology for estimation of Effort Distribution
- Advice using Management Strategy Evaluation (MSE)
- Contribute to the SCRS Science Strategic Plan
- Establish guidance on best practices to reconcile or combine assessment results when multiple modelling methods to estimate the status of the stock relative to ICCAT conservation benchmarks are used.
- Incorporation of Ecosystem, Climate, and Habitat information into stock assessments

# WG-Stock Assessment Methods: Recommendations

- ❖ Encourage CPCs to report their Task 2 catch and effort data at a finer geographical stratification
- ❖ Implementation of the management strategy evaluation approach (MSE) and promotion of the dialogue between scientists and fisheries managers on the Harvest Control Rules and MSE should be encouraged to improve the scientific advice given to the Commission
- ❖ Simple criteria could be used by the different working groups to start scoring the quality of the information used in different stock assessments
- ❖ Encourages CPCs to provide limited access to CPUE set-by-set data according to the needs and priorities identified by the different species groups and the subcommittees

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# **Strategic Plan**

*Madrid, Spain : April 14-16, 2014*

Well attended meeting, including SCRS officers and observers (NGOs, etc.). The Group reviewed the latest draft of the SCRS Science Strategic Plan and advised on topics including:

1. Definition of the Mission of the SCRS

- Definition of the Vision of the SCRS
- SWOT Analysis (Strengths-Weaknesses-Opportunities-Threats)
- Identification of SCRS Values
- Data Collection
- Dialog and Communication
- Participation and Capacity Building
- Research Priorities
- Improving Stock Assessments and Advice
- Tentative Schedule of meetings 2015-2020 into stock assessments

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## **Bluefin data preparatory meeting *Madrid, Spain : May 5-10, 2014***

- **Review of historical and new information on biology**
- **Review of old and new catch and size data**
- **Validation of the procedure followed to incorporate information from farms and other sources into the ICCAT data base**
- **Definition of a new procedure to estimate CAS, CAA, and WAA**
- **Review of available indices of relative abundance**
- **Define the data inputs and specifications for the 2014 update assessment (to be conducted by correspondence intersessionally) and advice framework**
- **Identification of the evaluation team and definition of the revision procedure**
- **Develop a web app from the R-VPA2-BOX interface**
- **Develop updated growth tables (response to Commission)**



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## Dialogue between Scientists and Managers Working Group

*Barcelona, Spain : May 26-28, 2014*

Some of the high priority objectives to be achieved during this meeting, from the SCRS perspective, include:

- Clear guidance from the Commission on levels of acceptable risk (e.g. what specifically does the Commission mean when it requires that stocks be maintained in the “green” with high probability?). This would enable to the SCRS to structure the management strategy evaluations necessary to define appropriate harvest control rules.
- Discussions leading to improved communication of assessment results, uncertainties and advice.

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## WG Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the Western Bluefin Stock Assessment

*Prince Edward Island, Canada: July 10-12, 2014*

### Paragraph 15 of Rec 13-09:

“Each CPC will prepare, where practical, a research plan to obtain reliable stock abundance indices for BFT of western origin and exchange it by April 30, 2014, for scientific review and comments, taking into account, as appropriate, the research programs proposed at the 2013 Commission meeting. CPC scientists will exchange views prior to the 2nd meeting of the Working Group of Fishery Managers and Scientists in Support of the Western Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Stock Assessment as described in Annex 1 of Rec. 12-02 to be held in June or later of 2014 to review the research plans for their earliest implementation. In addition, the SCRS will be informed of the outcomes of these activities.”



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**2014 Inter-Sessional Meeting of the  
Sub-Committee on Ecosystems  
Olhão, Portugal, September 1-5, 2014**

# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- **Bycatch**

- Revise and update the ERA of the impact of ICCAT fisheries on sea turtles [Rec 10-09; 13-11].

- Develop extra-sessionally using experts identified by the SCRS membership and SCRS national scientists.
    - Review/revise at 2014 SC-ECO meeting.
    - Communicate results to the 2014 Commission meeting.





# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- **Bycatch**

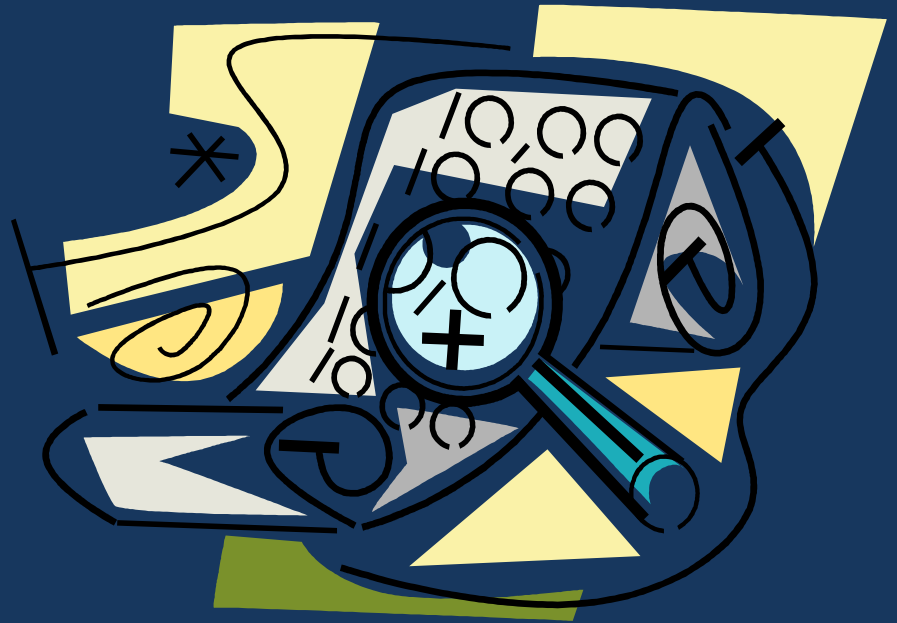
- Review seabird bycatch mitigation measures as described in Rec. 11-09.





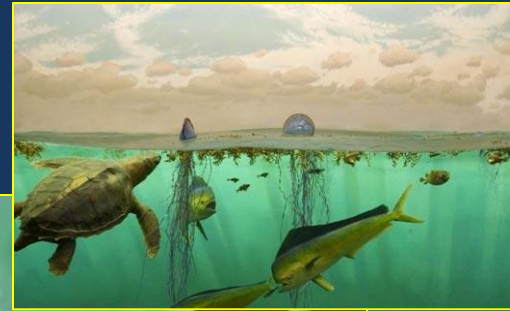
# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- **Bycatch**
  - Review progress towards standardized bycatch reporting forms.



# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- **Ecosystems**
  - Assess the importance of the Sargasso Sea ecosystem to ICCAT species as per Resolution 12-12.



# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- Ecosystems

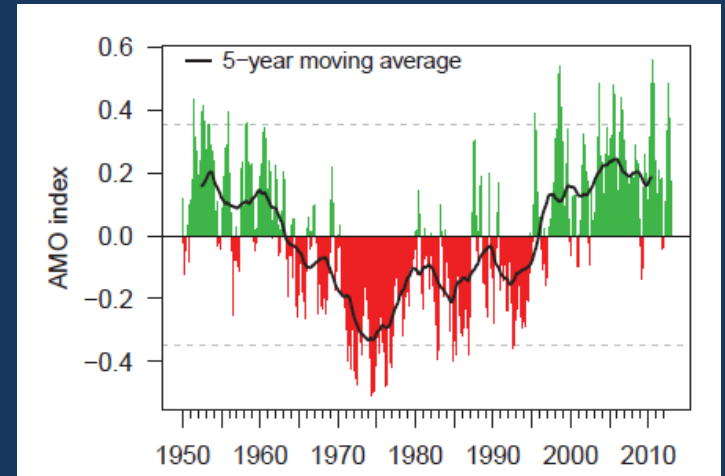
- Review progress by toward implementing ecosystem approaches

(e.g. The Ecosystem Status Report in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico, Karnauskas et al. 2013)

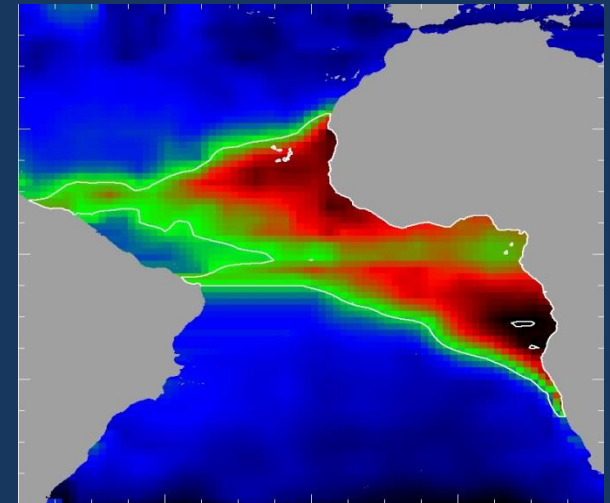


# 2014 SC-ECO Objectives

- **Ecosystems**
  - Explore environmental factors that affect the global distribution and productivity of highly migratory fish.



Atlantic multi-decadal oscillation



Dissolved Oxygen Concentration

## SCRS Meetings Scheduled for 2014

<b>Date</b>	<b>Meeting</b>	<b>Location</b>
<b>March 10-14</b>	<b>Sharks species group intersessional meeting</b>	<b>Piriápolis, Uruguay</b>
<b>April 7-11</b>	<b>Meeting of the ICCAT Working Group on Stock Assessment Methods</b>	<b>Dublin, Ireland</b>
<b>April 14-16</b>	<b>Meeting of the Strategic Plan Group</b>	<b>Madrid, Spain</b>
<b>May 5-10</b>	<b>Bluefin data preparatory meeting</b>	<b>Madrid, Spain</b>
<b>May 26-28</b>	<b>Dialogue between Scientists and Managers Working Group</b>	<b>Barcelona, Spain</b>
<b>June 2-7</b>	<b>Billfishes species group intersessional meeting</b>	<b>Veracruz, Mexico</b>
<b>June 23-July 1</b>	<b>Skipjack stock assessment meeting</b>	<b>Dakar, Senegal</b>
<b>July 10-12</b>	<b>WG Fisheries Managers and Scientists in support of the Western Bluefin Stock Assessment</b>	<b>Prince Edward Island, Canada</b>
<b>July 14-18</b>	<b>Training course on Bayesian Surplus Production (BSP)</b>	<b>Madrid, Spain</b>
<b>July 21-25</b>	<b>Mediterranean swordfish stock assessment meeting</b>	<b>Crete, Greece</b>
<b>September 1-5</b>	<b>Sub-Committee on Ecosystems intersessional meeting</b>	<b>Olhão, Portugal</b>
<b>September 22-26</b>	<b>SCRS Species Groups meetings</b>	<b>Madrid, Spain</b>
<b>September 29-October 3</b>	<b>2014 Meeting of the Standing Committee on Research and statistics</b>	<b>Madrid, Spain</b>